

# CLUB NOTES

## Official Organ of State Federation of Clubs

Constantly strengthened by new members and new ideas, the Woman's Club is becoming a stronger factor in the community every day of its existence. Every department—music, art and literature, household economics, and civic education has developed this season to such an extent that the occasional club guest finds a noticeable difference in the club programs. More vital questions are being discussed, infinitely more practical work is being done and more pretentious music is being offered. The club has been fortunate in its section chairman and the announcement this morning that Mrs. C. O. Anderson will head the household economics department next year will be learned with great satisfaction. The news will also come somewhat as a surprise for Mrs. Anderson's activities with the club which only dates since autumn, have been confined to the art and literature and civic departments. She is, however, an all round club woman as her past record shows for she was organizer and successful president of the Wilcox Woman's Club.

She has devoted her energies largely to civic affairs and recently led a discussion on "Public Recreation and Municipal Playgrounds" before the civic department. By request she has compiled her notes for that day for the following article for the Republican:

### PUBLIC RECREATION AND MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS

Mrs. C. O. Anderson

This subject is such a big one that at this time we will only attempt to present a few general arguments in favor of a comprehensive recreational system, leaving the more specific details and their local application for future consideration.

The movement for more wholesome recreation and for organized play and more adequate play grounds is sweeping the country—in fact the whole world. Nothing in recent years has attracted such wide spread attention. Nor is this a passing fad or fancy which is born today and dies tomorrow, but it is destined to live, grow and come to full fruition, for down deep in human nature lies its root. Play is the most fundamental thing in life and the recreational need is universal.

We find that great national organizations like the Department of Recreation of the Russell Sage Foundation and the Playground and Recreation Association of America, spending thousands of dollars annually on recreation. So we conclude that a movement of such magnitude is worth looking into. We want to know more about these activities for which so much is promised, and with the facts at hand we can then decide whether we are doing all that we might. We find the sources of information to be

many and varied. There are scores of books, magazines and newspaper articles dealing with the subject, and numerous organizations specializing in this phase of social welfare. The ideas we present however, have been gleaned mainly from the publications of the Russell Sage Foundation and the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

Naturally we want to know something about these organizations, that speak with so much authority on the subject. Upon investigation we find that the Russell Sage Foundation was endowed by Mrs. Sage with \$10,000,000, and incorporated under the laws of New York in 1907. The purpose being to improve social and living conditions in America. An undertaking of vital importance and great possibilities. One department is devoted entirely to the subject of recreation.

The Playground Association is neither endowed nor subsidized but dependent for its support upon the generosity of interested individuals and that it has grown into such a strong efficient organization, certainly speaks well for the worthwhileness of the movement. The official organ is "The Playground" a monthly magazine and the ultimate end to be attained is wholesome recreation for the entire family. The Association is a sort of clearing house for recreation ideas. It aids local groups by furnishing printed matter, loaning lantern slides, counselling with reference to plans, policies, speakers and workers. It also co-operates with other organizations working along the same line. Notably the Department of Recreation of the Russell Sage Foundation.

From a report of the Playground Association, Jan. 30, 1914, we learn that blanks were sent to every city in the United States and Canada of over 5000 and to cities under 5000 that had indicated some effort toward public recreation. Responses were received from 1950 cities which resulted in a comprehensive survey of recreation in America. Of these 642 cities reported various stages of activity, 342 of which had regular paid play leaders, 22 volunteer and 59 no leaders.

The Association stands for play leadership in playgrounds and recreation centers also for municipal support of recreation.

Many communities report playgrounds one year and none the next—explanation, no play leadership. Ad so the work rises and falls until it is at last established on the right basis with competent leadership. Never has a city so started, fallen back.

When the country was young and life less strenuous recreation problems were not so perplexing as they have grown to be. There was plenty of play space and neighborhood meetings were common. Chores after school and excursions through meadow pasture or beside the rippling brook, furnished physical exercise of the very best kind. Then the home was the industrial center and children learned by doing. They formed habits which determined their whole lives. Now all this has been changed. We are living in the age of the automobile and aeroplane. The work of the home has, in a large measure, been transformed to the factories, thereby making possible the evolution of our great modern industrial centers with their many accompanying social problems. Now it is no longer possible for the home to fulfill its original responsibility toward children. It then becomes the duty of society to share in this responsibility if modern youth is to have an all round training which will fit him for life.

How to solve the many social problems which changed conditions have brought about? How to counteract the evils of modern industry? How to safeguard the environment of youth? How to promote good citizenship, family unity and community spirit? Are questions which have received the most serious consideration from the world's greatest social workers. With one voice, however, they declare a comprehensive recreational system to be the best possible remedy because it strikes at the root of the evil—gets hold of the young people and by following nature's methods, lays right foundations of character. It builds up the physical body. It provides a place where desire for

companionship of boys and girls may have safe realization. It recognizes that recreation is one of the most compelling forces in the life of both young and old and that institutions to which society has objected are really responses to sound human needs. It is one thing to close bad places of amusement but quite another to open healthful ones. If youth must play, dance, go to the theater or attend the moving picture shows, then it becomes the duty of the community to provide a proper place with sufficient safeguards.

Each community solves the recreational problem according to local needs—activities fit conditions. In most every place are to be found such agencies as schools, churches, women's clubs, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A. and others interested in healthful amusements, but such agencies working alone are not sufficient. There must be a co-ordination of effort of best results are to be obtained. This work is best accomplished through a field secretary, from National Playground Association or some other equally efficient organization, who with expert knowledge and an outside inclusive point of view, is able to do for communities what they are not able to do for themselves.

Financial support may also come from various sources, but it is felt by those who have made a deep study of the subject that because the building of a splendid citizenship and the prevention, rather than the cure of vice are truly municipal functions that public recreation centers should be supported by public taxation. By such means only is it possible to bring all recreation forces into efficient co-operation.

It was natural that the need for play centers should first be felt in the more congested cities but now cities of all sizes and even rural communities are considering equipping and operating children's play grounds for children must play if they are to develop into normal, healthy beings.

Experts are agreed that play is a necessity, that it is the best form of physical exercise, that the first year of a child's life should be devoted to physical education, that adequate space and proper equipment should be provided, that play to be worth while, should be organized and that the most important factor is a competent play leader.

It is claimed by those who have made a thorough investigation that children left to themselves play little in fact that the average is 30 per cent loafing to 10 per cent play. The play being mostly of the dramatic type and not nearly vigorous enough to be of value as physical exercise and we all know the dangers of indiscriminate loafing. Through organizations under the team leadership only are the best results obtained. Of course there is a great deal of free play and a wise leader knows when to efface himself.

In play social habits are formed and morals and character developed. Team games of the play ground require submission of individual will to the welfare of the team. New Standards are set up, standards of self control, of helping the other fellow, of fighting shoulder to shoulder, for the honor of the team and of defeat preferable to unfair victory.

Playgrounds pay dividends in better school attendance, in better health, better morals in better neighborhood feeling and more vital and more wholesome life. Juvenile delinquency in the majority of instances is merely the play instinct gone wrong because not properly directed. Thwarted nature seeking the easiest outlet.

Leisure is increasing all over the country and it is becoming quite as important to train for leisure as well as for work for the child still finds work for idle hands to do. In an address before a joint session of the senate and house of the present legislature of Arizona, Dr. R. B. Klein-Smidt, emphasized this very point. He said, "It is a wise man who knows how to spend his leisure hours." He added further that from his experience in dealing with the criminal element he found that it was the improper use of leisure time that caused the trouble.

Properly supervised play grounds and recreation centers teach the proper use of leisure time. Early formation of play-habits is one of the best safe-guards against future delinquency.

The activities of a recreational system includes not only games and athletics, but gardening, wood work, arts and crafts, singing, wading, swimming, story-telling, parades and in fact everything that will bring joy and happy self expression.

Anything that promotes the general welfare by increasing the sum total of human happiness is quite worth while.

There is a close relationship between the moral and intellectual standards of a people and their amusements. The words of a Mexican governor to his people in 1910 seems truly prophetic and illustrates the point we wish to make. He said, "As long as the recreation of Mexico centers in the ball fight, as long as small boys and mothers with babies flock to these places so long will Mexico be a land of revolution. Commence now, while the country is still at peace, to find a substitute in character building recreation."

The January number of Playground contains many interesting bits of information about the various play-centers from which the following is taken:

The story-hour has proven popular in many places. In the Philadelphia play grounds it is intended to minister to the child's spiritual needs. A few stories are well told and repeated again and again that permanent moral and intellectual benefit may be gained. Well organized dramatic work

has been conducted on the Chicago play grounds by the Junior department of the Drama League of America.

"At Scranton an interesting pageant was given by 1000 children depicting the history of the city. The most striking tableau being a contrast between alley and play ground sports. A typical alley with boys shooting craps, playing cards, smoking and fighting was shown. Into this came a banana peddler with a push-cart. The boys stole the bananas, tipped over the push-cart and represented as realistically as possible the atmosphere of play-alley. The next tableau showed the same alley—a play ground in one corner showed girls sewing, big brothers playing volley ball and indulging in clean sports. During the tableau a boy carried a placard across the stage which said, 'Will you have an alley or a play ground?'"

The use of school buildings as recreation centers shows steady development. In New York, Washington, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, California and many other states the campaign for "Wider use of the school plant" has borne good fruit. Of the numerous recreation centers in New York City, Superintendent Maxwell says, "Wherever recreation centers have been opened they have proved formidable rivals to private dance halls. To suppress them and other resorts even more vicious for the young seems impossible. The only way to meet the evil is to provide counter attractions of irreproachable character. They may most easily be furnished in the school building."

In addition to opening up the schools as recreation centers, many cities have developed the possibilities of other buildings. Cleveland has purchased an old hospital and the grounds for a recreation center. How school buildings in dry territory may be remodeled into municipal recreation centers is a question often asked and has been answered by one enterprising play ground worker who suggests that they be converted into neighborhood center gymnasiums in charge of an energetic, friendly manager and operated on a paying basis.

One of the greatest hindrances to a more rapid spread of the play movement is the initial cost of the grounds and buildings and equipment, also expense of maintenance, including care and supervision. Those responsible for action must be convinced that they are justified in ordering the expenditures and very often this is not easily done. There has, however, come into the race consciousness a change regarding what are real necessities. The viewpoint has changed somewhat. New ideals have been ushered in and the question now becomes "Does a movement minister to real human needs or make for better citizenship instead of does it pay in dollars and cents?" It has been truly said that the recreation movement is an expression of the modern struggle between materialism and spiritual ideals.

From an editorial that appeared in a recent issue of The Republican we learned that Russell Sage experts were invited to investigate conditions in Springfield, Illinois and their report concerning recreation will apply with equal force to all communities. They call attention to the fact that recreation every place is good and bad. It is in part bad for the same reason that much of modern industry is evil because it is largely commercial. Anything commercial is apt to look more for profits than for human welfare. At least, emphasis is put on profits. All communities are, however, much more interested in the wholesome development of all the people than they are in profits so there is hope that something constructive will result. The experts urge that all school buildings be opened twice a week and that voluntary neighborhood associations be organized to develop the best use of the buildings. They further recommend that home, school and church cooperate in bringing public opinion up to the point where it will demand that adequate provisions be made for properly equipped and supervised play grounds, athletic fields and recreation centers for the youth of the city.

In conclusion let us again reconsider some of the main points:

1. That play is a necessity.
2. That the first years of a child's life should be devoted to physical education.
3. That adequate space and proper equipment are necessary.
4. That organized play develops character.
5. That proper supervision of recreation is an important factor.
6. That play grounds make for better health, better morals and better community spirit.
7. That properly conducted recreation centers lessen crime, promote good citizenship and make for greater industrial efficiency.
8. That the support of public recreation is truly a municipal function and that the expenditure is justified from the standpoint of economy and social progress.

Bearing all these things in mind, can any community afford to hesitate where such vital issues are at stake?

Subjects of vital interest throughout the country will occupy the attention of the Woman's club at its meeting next Tuesday, Women and War, and Made in the U. S. A. garments, two of the most discussed topics of the day will be given place on the program. Preceding the opening number the establishment of an endowment fund for the president of the state federation will be taken under consideration.

The program follows:

1. Maricopa Indian Dance Song, by four boys from the Indian school.
2. The Woman's National Made in U. S. A. League, Mrs. E. H. Abbott, discussion.
3. Chorus—(a) The Miller's Woollen—Fanning.
4. Carendua Waltz—Wilson. (Both American composers). By 24

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pupils of the Indian school, Jean Stacy, director.

Paper—Woman Versus War, the Woman's Peace Party, plaintiff, Miss Alice M. Birdsell. Discussion.

"Do not turn your club into a sewing society," is the advice given by Mrs. Henry D. Ross, president of the Arizona federation of Women's clubs to all rural clubs. Mrs. Ross believes in the betterment of conditions for the woman of the farm and is thoroughly in sympathy with the movement of the household economics department of the general federation in using its influence to secure for the development of the farm woman a part of the Smith-Sever fund that is to be expended for agricultural purposes. These were the sentiments Mrs. Ross expressed at the gentlemen's evening of the Orangewood Improvement club at the home of Mrs. C. C. Custer, Wednesday evening in discussing the "Serious Side of Club Life." Mrs. Ross gave the gentlemen an insight to the federation and its relation to state federations.

The board of managers of the Arizona congress of Mothers and Parent Teacher associations will hold an all day session Monday at the home of Mrs. W. P. White, 822 North Sixth avenue.

"Guardianship of Children" will be discussed by Mrs. J. D. Henderson at the Civic League Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock at the chamber of commerce.

The Civic League and Orangewood Improvement club last week made application to become affiliated with the Arizona federation of Women's clubs. Both organizations belong to the Arizona central district federation of Women's clubs.

The Musicians club will give its regular monthly program at three o'clock tomorrow at the Woman's club. Mrs. Louis Dyrast will act as chairman. The numbers, well arranged, will be given by well known musicians, and a delightful feature will be the reading by Mrs. Katherine Wisner McClusky.

The program follows:

1. Sketches of Lives of Leschetizky and Strauss, Mrs. Dyrast.
2. "The Two Larks," (Leschetizky), Mrs. H. L. Shedd.
3. "All Souls' Day," (b) "Ah, Woe is Me Unhappy Man," (Strauss), Mrs. R. M. Taff.
4. Violin Concerto, D. Minor, Op. 8, (Strauss), Mr. Pratt.
5. "Dream in the Twilight," (Strauss), Mrs. Raymond Battin.
6. "Intermezzo" in G-flat Op. 44, (Leschetizky), Wm. Orth.
7. "Serenade," (Strauss), Mrs. Arthur Gibbons Hulett.
8. "Knock Arden," (Strauss), Mrs. W. E. Defty, Mrs. McClusky.
9. Accompaniments, Mrs. L. H. Sargent, Miss Elliott, Miss Werta Work, Miss Defty.

The Woman's club has set March 15, as the date of its annual "gentlemen's evening."

The members of Washington District Woman's club proved their knowledge of Poor Richards' Almanac when they gave sixty adages at the meeting of the club Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Kurt Fickas. The meeting was given under the auspices of the art and liter-

ature department and as its chairman, Mrs. R. E. Fleet, read from the almanac she paused occasionally to allow the members to respond with the well known proverbs. It was a novel and unusual way to conduct a reading and held the keen interest throughout the afternoon. The music was a charming feature, Mrs. Fickas played Schubert's "Serenade" and for an encore played a popular song, Mrs. H. C. Lockett sang a group of songs, delightfully, "Lullaby Lullaby," by Orin Thompson; the "Moon Boat," by Jessie L. Gaynor, and "Sweet Clover," by Lee Olean Smith, comprised her attractive selections.

Mrs. Katherine Wisner McClusky, whose readings are famous in all the local clubs, is now giving a course of readings on Monday evenings that is open to the general public for the small admission price of twenty-five cents. The affairs for the present are being held at the home of Mrs. Lyman Bennett, 800 North First avenue. Mrs. McClusky has outlined an interesting series and tomorrow night will give "Candida," by Bernard Shaw.

"Peace" will be the subject of the meeting of the Orangewood Improvement club on March 10, when the members will be entertained at the home of Mrs. P. L. Sterkel of North Seventh avenue.

At the Parker-Woodman residence on North Central avenue, the Osborne Parent Teacher association gave an entertainment Wednesday evening that was a credit to the committee on arrangements and proved a financial success. Spencer Woodman opened the program with a recitation on George Washington and his brother, Thomas Woodman gave a reading about the "Man Who Was First in War, First in Peace and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen." Little Miss Ruth Baum danced delightfully and Dr. John Messenger recited "Tommy Twist," which proved a popular number. Miss Carmelita Ward and Miss Cora Carper added to the enjoyment with

piano selections and a quartette by Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Nelson, Mrs. W. P. Sims and R. E. Holzworth, was equally delightful. The Cherry tree that was used in decoration was found to hold a miniature hatchet for the guests and the verses attached to each was read with interest and amusement.

DOESN'T CARE TO ASSUME RISK

"Papa," queried the minister's small son, "is it true that we must be born again before we can go to heaven?" "So the Scriptures teach us, my boy," was the reply.

"Well, I don't want to be born again," said the little fellow. "I'm afraid I might be born a little girl the next time."—Kansas City Star.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Phoenix, Arizona, until 10 o'clock A. M. March 15th, 1915 for 55,000 ft. of 3-inch Orangeburg fibre duct.

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